

(146a)

## CORRESPONDENCE RE PURCHASE OF "NIOBE."

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OTTAWA, 11th November, 1909.

Graham Greene, Admiralty, London.

Canadian Government would like arrangements for one 'Apollo' proceeded with, and wish to know if 'Spartiate' can be obtained for second Cruiser, and on what terms. Reply by telegraph requested.

KINGSMILL.

LONDON, 15th November, 1909.

KINGSMILL,

Naval Staff Office, Ottawa, Canada.

Treasury being asked sanction sale of 'Rainbow' to Canadian Government £50,000. Have you considered 'Hawke' class as an alternative to 'Spartiate'?

GREENE.

OTTAWA, 17th November, 1909.

Graham Greene, Admiralty, London.

'Hawke' class not considered suitable. 'Spartiate' class preferred, better accommodation, armament more modern, and carrying No. 9.2-in. guns, moreover watertube boilers. If a 'Spartiate' approved, on what terms could one be loaned and on what date will be available for Canadian Government?

KINGSMILL.

OTTAWA, 19th November, 1909.

Graham Greene, Admiralty, London.

With reference to my telegram 17th November, after the word loaned insert the words 'or sold.'

KINGSMILL.

OTTAWA, 4th December, 1909.

Graham Greene, Admiralty, London.

Is question under consideration as to loan or sale of a 'Spartiate' or is it necessary to communicate through official channel?

KINGSMILL.

Extract from telegram of 7th December, 1909.

Admiral Kingsmill, Naval Staff Office, Ottawa.

Question of 'Spartiate' still under consideration, hope to shortly communicate further.

GREENE.



9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

7th December, 1909.

Right Honourable

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G.,  
High Commissioner for the Dominion,  
17 Victoria Street, London.

My Lord;—

I have the honour to request you will be pleased to approach the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the following:—

While attending the Conference on the naval and Military Defence of the Empire in London, July and August, 1909, an informal request was made to the Admiralty to consider on what terms they could provide Canada with two Cruisers of the 'Apollo' class. Since then negotiations for the purchase of one 'Apollo' have been entered into, but as it was found that it would be more expedient for training purposes if a Cruiser of 'Spartiate' class could be obtained instead of an 'Apollo,' a cablegram to that effect was sent on 11th November, informally, to the Assistant Secretary of the Admiralty. The following was the text:—'Canadian Government would like arrangements for one 'Apollo' proceeded with, and wish to know if 'Spartiate' can be obtained for second Cruiser, and on what terms. Reply by telegraph requested.'

A reply was received to this cable as follows:—

'Treasury being asked sanction sale 'Rainbow' to Canadian Government £50,000. Have you considered 'Hawke' class as an alternative to 'Spartiate?'

To this the following reply was sent, on 17th November, 1909:—'Hawke' class not considered suitable. 'Spartiate' class preferred, better accommodation, armament more modern, and carrying No. 9.2-in. guns, moreover watertube boilers. If a 'Spartiate' approved, on what terms would one be loaned and on what date will be available for Canadian Government?'

I have now the honour to ask your Lordship to approach the Admiralty and to ascertain on what terms the Canadian Government can obtain a Cruiser of either type sanctioned, *i.e.*, 'Spartiate' or 'Edgar.'

G. J. DESBARATS.  
*Deputy Minister.*

10th December, 1909.

To Admiral Kingsmill, Naval Staff Office, Ottawa.

Subject to the approval of Treasury, Admiralty are prepared to sell 'Niobe' to Canadian Government for lump sum of £215,000 made up as follows—for ship in efficient seagoing and fighting condition £160,000—Guns and torpedoes £20,000—Ammunition and packages—outfit only £25,000. Sea stores without coal—£10,000.

GREENE.

5th January, 1910.

Cable.

My Government is informed that the Admiralty is willing to consider sale of 'Niobe' of 'Spartiate' class. Would you kindly ascertain from Admiralty conditions upon which they would sell this cruiser to Canadian Government?

GREY.



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OTTAWA, 17th January, 1910.

G. J. Desbarats, Esq.,  
Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Desbarats,—

In response to your telephonic requests, I have much pleasure in sending you a further copy of Lord Crewe's despatch of the 13th January, 1910, on the subject of the purchase of the 'Niobe.'

JOSEPH POPE.

FROM LORD CREWE TO LORD GREY.

LONDON, 13th January, 1910.

With reference to your telegram of 5th January. Subject to approval of Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. Admiralty will sell 'Niobe' on terms stated in Graham Greene's telegram of December 10th to Kingsmill. Do your Government accept?

CREWE.

18th January, 1910.

The Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honour to request that the following reply may be sent through the Governor General's Office to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the 'Niobe,' viz:—'Government accept the offer for 'Niobe' on terms stated in Graham Greene's letter 10th December, subject to approval of Dominion Parliament.'

G. J. DESBARATS,  
Deputy Minister.

P.C. 85.

*Certified Copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 5th February, 1910.*

On a Memorandum, dated 3rd January, 1910, from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, stating that he has had under consideration the question of the purchase from the Admiralty, of an additional cruiser for training purposes in connection with the naval forces of Canada.

The Minister observes that the technical officers of the Department of Marine and Fisheries recommend that a ship of the 'Spartiate' class be obtained. They submit that it will be necessary, until the new ships for the Canadian Navy are ready for use, to provide a ship in which large numbers of men can be completely trained. The 'Spartiate' class will not only afford the means for such training but will obviate the necessity for having so large a proportion of skilled ratings from the Royal Navy on the first manning of the new ships.

The Minister further observes that in these circumstances he caused enquiries to be made of the Admiralty as to the terms on which a ship of the 'Spartiate' class could be obtained, and he is informed that, subject to the approval of the Treasury Department, the Admiralty are prepared to sell 'Niobe' to the Canadian Government for a lump sum of £215,000, in efficient seagoing and fighting condition including guns, torpedos, ammunition, packages, outfit, and sea stores without coal.

The Minister is advised that the 'Niobe' was completed in 1899 at a cost of £600,000 and that her dimensions and equipment are as follows:—



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Displacement, 11,000 tons.

Draught, 26 feet.

Armament, 16 6-inch guns; 12 12-Pdr. guns, 5 3-Pdr. guns, 2 submerged torpedo tubes.

Speed, 20½ knots.

Complement, 600.

The Minister concurring in the report of the technical officers of the Department of Marine and Fisheries recommends that authority be given to purchase the 'Niobe' from the Lords Commissioners for a lump sum of £215,000, subject to the money being voted by Parliament.

The Committee submit the same for approval.

RUDOLPHE BOUDREAU.  
*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

OTTAWA, 24th December, 1909.

Admiralty, London.

The Canadian Government are considering the building of 11 ships originally suggested, 'Niobe' to replace either a 'Bristol' or 'Boadicea.' Wish advice from Admiralty as to which.

BRODEUR.

LONDON, 28th December, 1909.

Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Ottawa.

In order to simplify ammunition reserve and supply and to preserve homogeneity suggest 'Niobe' replace 'Boadicea.'

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.  
22nd December, 1909.

The Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, Canada.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 7th instant, regarding the desire of the Canadian Government to obtain a second cruiser, preferably one of the 'Spartiate' class and to state that Lord Strathcona is communicating with the Admiralty on the subject, as desired.

As soon as His Lordship is informed of the decision of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in the matter, he will be glad to communicate its terms to your Department.

W. L. GRIFFITH.

17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.,  
3rd January, 1910.

The Hon. L. P. Brodeur, M.P., Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Brodeur,—With further reference to the letter from your Department of the 7th ultimo, regarding the desire of the Canadian Government to obtain a second Cruiser, preferably one of the 'Spartiate' class, I am now furnished by the Admiralty with the copy of a telegram which they dispatched to Rear-Admiral Kingsmill on the 10th ultimo, giving particulars of the terms on which they would be willing to sell the



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'Niobe,' one of the 'Spartiate' class of cruisers, to the Dominion Government, subject to the approval of the Treasury.

Meanwhile, I am informed that no further particulars as to this cruiser have been asked for from the Admiralty, so that at present the matter would appear to be under consideration in your Department.

I shall be glad to be of any service in the matter that you may require.

STRATHCONA.

P.C. 118.

*Certified Copy of the Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 24th January, 1910.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a report, dated 19th January, 1910, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom was referred a telegraphic despatch, dated 13th January, 1910, from the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the purchase of the 'Niobe.'

The Minister recommends that the Canadian Government accept the offer for the 'Niobe' on terms stated in Graham Greene's letter of the 10th December, 1909, subject to the approval of the Dominion Parliament, as follows, namely:—

For ship in efficient seagoing and fighting condition.. ..	£160,000
Guns and Torpedos.. .. .	20,000
Ammunition and packages, outfit only.. .. .	25,000
Sea Stores, without coal.. .. .	10,000
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	£215,000

The Committee advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to inform the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, by telegraph, in this sense.

RUDOLPHE BOUDREAU.

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

20th January, 1910.

Right Honourable

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.V.O., G.C.M.G.,  
17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Dear Lord Strathcona,—

In the absence of my Minister, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., forwarding a copy of a telegram despatched to Rear-Admiral Kingsmill by the Admiralty, giving the terms on which they would be willing to sell the 'Niobe' to the Dominion Government, subject to the approval of the Treasury, which you received from them.

I am very much obliged for this, and for your promise to do what you can in the matter.

G. J. DESBARATS.













